



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/603,316	06/25/2003	Junichi Yamagishi	F-7872	5286
28107	7590	06/16/2005	EXAMINER	
JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP			BROWN, VERNAL U	
122 EAST 42ND STREET			ART UNIT	
SUITE 4000			PAPER NUMBER	
NEW YORK, NY 10168			2635	

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/603,316

Applicant(s)

YAMAGISHI, JUNICHI

Examiner

Vernal U. Brown

Art Unit

2635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 May 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/22/03</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The application of Yamagishi Junich for Locking Apparatus filed June 25, 2003 has been examined. Claims 1-4 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu et al. US Patent 6100811 in view of Usui Japanese Patent JP02002155650.

Regarding claim 1, Hsu et al. teaches a locking apparatus (34) having a fingerprint reader (16), a fingerprint verifier (30), and inherently includes a power supply circuit, the fingerprint reader being configured to read a fingerprint, the fingerprint verifier being configured to verify the read fingerprint based on registered fingerprint data, and according to a result of the verification, authenticate a person who entered the fingerprint, the locking apparatus being configured to unlock, if the person is authenticated (col. 4 lines 26-41). Hsu et al. is silent on teaching a chamber having an opening and configured to contain the fingerprint reader; a lid configured to open and close the opening of the chamber; and a switch provided for the power supply circuit and configured to interlock with the lid so as to turn on and off the power supply circuit in response to the opening and closing of the lid. Usui in an art related fingerprint lock

Art Unit: 2635

invention teaches a lid configured to open and close the opening of the chamber; and a switch provided for the power supply circuit and configured to interlock with the lid so as to turn on and off the power supply circuit in response to the opening and closing of the lid (Abstract) in order to protect the fingerprint sensor from environmental condition and conserve the power source of the lock.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have a lid configured to open and close the opening of the chamber; and a switch provided for the power supply circuit and configured to interlock with the lid so as to turn on and off the power supply circuit in response to the opening and closing of the lid in Hsu et al. as evidenced by Usui because Hsui et al. suggests a fingerprint sensor for acquiring the fingerprint for activating a locking apparatus and Usui teaches a lid configured to open and close the opening of the chamber; and a switch provided for the power supply circuit and configured to interlock with the lid so as to turn on and off the power supply circuit in response to the opening and closing of the lid in order to protect the fingerprint sensor from environmental condition and conserve the power source of the lock.

Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu et al. US Patent 6100811 in view of Japanese Patent JP02002155650 and further in view of Salatino et al. US Patent 5920640.

Regarding claims 2-4, Hsu et al. in view of Usui teaches the use of a lid for covering the fingerprint sensor (see response to claim 1) but is silent on teaching the lid is made of conductive material and is grounded. Salatino et al. teaches fingerprint sensing device teaches the grounding of the housing of the fingerprint sensor (col. 7 lines 23-39) in order to protect the sensor from electrostatic charge. Salatino et al. further teaches the

Art Unit: 2635

chamber is formed in a shape to receive the finger (figure 1) and teaches the cover is moveable in order to access the fingerprint sensor (col. 7 lines 33-34). Salatino is also silent on teaching the lid is open when pushed toward the inside of the chamber. One skilled in the art recognizes that it is a conventional practice of opening a lid by pushing on the lid as evidenced by ashtray in a vehicle.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill for the lid to be made of conductive material and is grounded in Hsu et al. in view of Usui as evidenced by Salatino et al. because Hsu et al. in view of Usui suggests the use of a lid for covering the fingerprint sensor and Salatino et al teaches the grounding of the housing of the fingerprint sensor in order to protect the sensor from electrostatic charge and one skilled in the art recognizes that it is a conventional practice of opening a lid by pushing on the lid as evidenced by ashtray in a vehicle.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vernal U. Brown whose telephone number is 571-272-3060. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-7:00 Monday-Thursday.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on 571-272-3068. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2635

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Vernal Brown
June 9, 2005


BRIAN ZIMMERMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER